

**Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Executive Committee
September 16, 2010
700 Calhoun Place, Derwood, MD
Meeting Notes**

Attending: Elaine Binder, Tammy Duell, John Honig, Alan Kreger, Marcia Pruzan, Odile Saddi. Beth Shapiro, Jack Sprague, Bob Tiller Judy Welles

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/DECISION/NEXT STEPS
Bank Account	Issues have arisen concerning ability to write checks on the existing account.	Elaine will ask Vivien to research options for using other banks.
Parking fee affecting disabled	COA was asked for a response to this issue	COA response was agreement with the position of the Commission on People with Disabilities – that accessibility is the key issue, not the ability to pay for parking.
Upcoming Meetings:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civic Engagement-Myra Cooperstein will attend 2. Uma/HHS meeting with Commissions and Boards: Alan will attend 3. Senior Subcabinet meeting—Alan will attend 4. Funders Roundtable meeting: Odile will attend; Beth asked her to ask funders about what happens to programs at the end of the funding cycle. 5. Judy Welles, who represents the COA at VLC meetings, will attend the HHS Committees, Commissions and Boards meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine will encourage greater participation by all committee members in COA activities and meetings, • COA may consider alternative ways to participate, for example, by conference call.
Report: Communication and Community Outreach Committee	Judy Welles: The committee's top priority will be communication with stakeholders and improving methods for getting information out to seniors. Since Stakeholders meeting last May, COA has sent participants meeting summary and COA Call to Action, and invited their participation in summer studies.	Continuing dialogue with stakeholders as equal partners is essential; consider quarterly emails and additional stakeholder meetings.

	<p>So that the communication committee can concentrate on enhancing outreach to seniors and stakeholders who reach them, Elaine has sent an email asking for COA volunteers to work on a Task Force to plan the shows and consider ways to liven the format in constrained budget environment.</p> <p>Jack has asked Rockville Senior Center Director to ask City of Rockville to film some Center activities for airing on Seniors Today.</p>	
Report: Public Policy	<p>Bob Tiller and Jack Sprague: Legislative Breakfast: tentatively scheduled for morning of December 3. Talking points for discussion with legislators will be developed for COA members.</p> <p>Issues for committee consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leslie Marks will write a proposal concerning “purpose-built affordable senior housing” for committee consideration. • Financial predators--committee will continue investigating as appropriate. 	Consider arranging a separate meeting for Council members similar to the Legislators breakfast.
Report: Mental Health Initiative	<p>Alan Kreger: Pastor Moses of the Group Home Association of Montgomery County has arranged for five group homes to take in MC residents with mental health issues. Bonnie Klem plans to place more than 20 people into these homes.</p>	Evaluation will be needed for assessing both the placement process and the value of the kit developed for group home employees.
Summer Studies	<p>Elaine congratulated all chairs for the enormous amount of work and quality of outcomes from the summer studies. Many Study participants came from COA stakeholders and other outside groups. There was a discussion about prioritizing COA work; a decision to keep working on a specific topic does not ensure that it is or will be a COA priority.</p> <p>Chairs reported on process outcomes and recommendations from each study. (see below)</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities for a Lifetime 	<p>Jack Sprague and Bob Tiller: The Committee drafted legislation that if passed by the State would ask jurisdictions to develop plans to become Communities for a Lifetime, specifically in the area of senior needs.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To move the draft legislation through the Legislature in the coming session. 	<p>Executive Committee will ask the Commission to approve the Public Policy Committees activities on this issue.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Life Care 	<p>Tammy Duell: Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain Council/Board of Health sanction for End of Life Care Bill of Rights • Conduct outreach and education for the public and providers; there is a distinction between “Power of Attorney and Do Not Resuscitate. Patients need to understand what they are agreeing to when they accept or decline “DNR.” • Conduct End of Life Pilot project for first responders five MD counties including Montgomery; • Monitor EOL legislation for possible COA support 	<p>Exec Committee agreed that these recommendations are important and will ask the Commission to endorse the committee’s continued work on the topic.</p> <p>Public/Private Enterprise might be a good candidate for proposal for Funders Roundtable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation 	<p>Beth Shapiro: Summer Study group recommended establishing a county-wide policy for senior transportation and mobility. The summer study group issued a proposal to Leadership Montgomery (LM) about transportation. LM changed the summer study into a new proposal for Senior Leadership Montgomery to develop an advocacy training initiative to educate seniors about how to advocate for themselves about transportation issues. COA was not mentioned in the LM proposal. It is clear from Mr. Leggett’s letter responding to the COA Call to Action that transportation is one of his priority areas. Continued committee work would be to submit proposed policy to County Council for a transportation policy for County seniors; the policy would be developed and implemented in collaboration with stakeholders and County Government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exec Committee will ask COA to approve transportation as a priority issue and to encourage continued work on this topic in committee. • Elaine has written to Senior Leadership Montgomery to indicate the resources available through COA members and our in-depth collection of information on the topic. • Beth will send summer study members a copy of Senior LM proposal. • Ask the County to consider electronically distributing the

	<p>Both accessibility and mobility must be considered in any discussion of transportation options for seniors.</p> <p>Attention also should be give to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding speakers forums to education seniors about transportation challenges and resources • Developing a county-wide policy on transportation services for seniors. • New pamphlet has been printed with transportation options for seniors. However, no funding for printing it in quantity is available. 	<p>pamphlet to stakeholders and others who can get it out to seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask CHIP to collect data on seniors and transportation
Committee Structure	<p>Although transportation and housing were suggested as two new COA committees, there are too few COA members to adequately cover two new committees. There could be one committee covering these and other topics affecting the quality of life in the County for seniors. Because there already is a transportation initiative under way, it should be seen as a priority for this new committee.</p>	<p>Exec Committee will propose only one new committee: Aging in the Community/Place that will focus on transportation and other issues, including housing, that will enable seniors to age successfully in the homes of their choice,</p>
Call to Action	<p>COA has approval to write a press release on Call to Action. Mr. Leggett's response letter provides the COA with a special opportunity to help shape policy affecting seniors in the County.</p> <p>Elaine will work with Odile, Jay, Uma, and Gabe to plan a meeting with the County Executive to ensure that the issues in his letter are carried out. Once a strategy is developed, she will ask for a meeting with Mr. Leggett in which she asks that the COA be a strong partner in helping to achieve the goals set out in the letter, along with the Senior Subcabinet and appropriate stakeholders. Park and Planning might be an appropriate body to help develop a plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy will draft the press release to be issued on COA letterhead, at the appropriate time. • Elaine will examine a plan developed earlier at Towson University and any other relevant documents available to her. • Elaine will request a meeting with the County Executive to pursue COA support in planning for seniors. • The C&CO committee will develop a communication plan dealing with strategy to communicate about Call to Action and any other topics of

		importance to the COA.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Committee. Elaine has asked Alan and two other to Chair the upcoming nominating committee for new COA members. Consideration should be given to specific skill sets needed and diversity related male/female ratio and cultural backgrounds. • Montgomery County Government restructuring. Chairs have been appointed, but there is no other information about this at this time. 	Elaine will ask Nancy Floreen to address Call to Action at September COA meeting.